

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1. (Original) A method for manufacturing a molded article that comprises a substrate material and skin material, comprising:

press molding the substrate material and the skin material and
simultaneously cutting a peripheral portion of the substrate material in order to remove an unnecessary or waste portion from the substrate material, but without cutting the skin material.

2. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the substrate material is cut at or before completion of the molding step.

3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the molding step further comprises closing a first die and a second die, wherein the first die receives the substrate material and the second die receives the skin material, and the cutting step further comprises moving a cutter toward the substrate material while simultaneously closing the first and second dies.

4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the cutter comprises a first cutter element and a second cutter element, the first cutter element cooperating with the second cutter element when the first and second dies are closed, to thereby cut the substrate material.

5. (Original) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the first cutter elements comprises a cutter blade arranged and constructed to move in a direction of the closing of the first and second dies and the second cutter element comprises a cutting edge formed on the first die, wherein the cutter blade moves and cooperates with the cutting edge when the first and second dies close.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5, further comprising moving the cutter blade from a retracted position to a projected position prior to cutting the substrate material.

7. (Original) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the substrate material comprises a mixture of natural fibrous materials and thermoplastic resin-based fibrous materials, and wherein the substrate material and the skin material are heated prior to or during the molding step.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 7, further comprising drawing a vacuum to pre-form the skin material received within the second die prior to closing the first and second dies.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the substrate material comprises a mixture of natural fibrous materials and thermoplastic resin-based fibrous materials, and wherein the molding step further comprises heating and pressing the substrate material and the skin material.

10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, further comprising drawing a vacuum to pre-form the skin material received within the second die prior to press molding the substrate material and the skin material.

Claims 11-20. (Cancelled).